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To: Presidents of Colleges / Universities
Directors of College Health
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From: Susan M. Lett, M.D., M.P.H, Medical Director, Immunization Program
Division of Epidemiology and Immunization

Date: July 2006

Re: New Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) Vaccine Recommendations for
College / Postsecondary School Students

Because the recent national mumps outbreak has been widespread in college students, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the American College Health Association (ACHA) now recommend that colleges / postsecondary schools ensure students have documentation of receipt of 2 doses of MMR vaccine.

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) endorses the recommendations outlined in the attached memo. Please be aware, however, of two exceptions to the CDC and ACHA recommendations. In Massachusetts, proof of mumps immunity for college students does **not** include: 1) physician diagnosed mumps; or 2) birth before 1957.

Currently, Massachusetts' postsecondary school immunization requirements state that students, regardless of age, must have 2 doses of a measles-containing vaccine and 1 dose of mumps and rubella, unless they have laboratory evidence of immunity (105 CMR 220.600).

Now, in accordance with the ACHA and CDC recommendations, MDPH recommends that postsecondary school students have 2 doses of MMR (or mumps-containing vaccine). Students who have documentation of 1 dose of MMR vaccine and 1 dose of measles vaccine, should receive a 2nd dose of MMR vaccine.

Since the MDPH Immunization Program only supplies the combination MMR vaccine formulation, college students who have attended school in Massachusetts should already have 2 doses of mumps-containing vaccine. This may not be the case for students from other states and countries.

This year, MDPH will begin reviewing current college immunization requirements and drafting revised, proposed regulations that reflect the latest recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). New regulations are unlikely to be in place for at least a year. Additional time will be needed for implementation and a date for the regulations to become effective. Therefore, while we await the outcome of the regulatory process, MDPH recommends colleges follow **now** the ACIP recommendations for 2 doses of MMR vaccine. Colleges and postsecondary schools have the capability of implementing stricter immunization standards for college attendance than those required by state regulation (105 CMR 220.000) in Massachusetts.

Please remember to report all suspect cases of mumps to your local board of health and to the MDPH Immunization Program at (617) 983-6800 or (888) 658-2850. An immunization epidemiologist will assist you in the development of control measures. More detailed guidance can be found in the mumps chapter of MDPH's *Guide to Surveillance and Reporting*, which is located on the department's website at <http://www.mass.gov/dph/cdc/gsrman/gsr.htm>.

Information about mumps can be found at the following websites:

- MDPH at <http://www.mass.gov/dph/cdc/epii/imm/imm.htm#mumps>;
- CDC at <http://www.cdc.gov/nip/diseases/mumps/default.htm>; or
- ACHA at http://www.acha.org/mumps_06.cfm.

For more information regarding college immunization requirements and recommendations or mumps-related issues, please contact MDPH's Division of Epidemiology and Immunization at (617) 983-6800 or (888) 658-2850 or visit <http://www.mass.gov/dph>.

Enclosure

CDC and ACHA memo: Strategy to Protect College Students from Mumps